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Docket No.: 2038-280

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
SHINOHARA, Junji :
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/990,262 : Group Art Unit: 3765
Filed: November 23, 2001 : Examiner: A. Grayson
For: DISPOSABLE UNDERGARMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUL 02 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the documents be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

A concise explanation of the relevance of JP 1996-24291A has already been provided in the specification, pages 1-3. The reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least the unique feature of the claimed invention that "a stiffness of said core is lower in the front and rear end zones than in the middle zone."

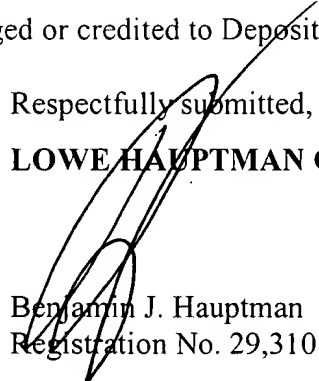
CERTIFICATION PARAGRAPH

The undersigned certifies that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.97(e)(2)).

A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$180.00 is attached. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

1700 Diagonal Road
Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile:
Date: June 26, 2003
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